



United States Department of Agriculture

Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services  
Risk Management Agency

November 10, 2003

## INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

**TO: ALL REINSURED COMPANIES**

**FROM: LARRY N. ATKINSON /s/ Clifton R. Parker for Larry Atkinson  
DIRECTOR**

**SUBJECT: BLUEBERRIES – ADDITIONAL 2004 UNDERWRITING GUIDELINES**

### ISSUE

Blueberry growers in southeastern North Carolina with blueberry varieties that bloom early were severely damaged by an unusually early spring freeze during the 2001 crop year. The temperature dropped to 25 degrees Fahrenheit. The consequence of this freeze could unfairly trip established yield trend procedures for the blueberry growers.

Under certain catastrophic situations, the regional office may issue additional guidelines for calculation of Actual Production History (APH) yields when weather conditions are severe in a localized area.

### ACTION

Item #4, Informational Memorandum, Underwriting Guidelines for Perennial Crops, dated October 6, 2003, describes guidelines for units when the average yield of the most recent 3 years of actual yields is less than or equal to 75 percent of the APH average yield. Due to a localized severe freeze during the 2001 crop year, new guidelines will be applicable to blueberries in the pilot counties of southeastern North Carolina - Bladen, Columbus, Craven, Duplin, Pender, and Sampson Counties. For the 2004 crop year, when the average yield for the most recent 2 years (2002 and 2003) of actual yields is less than or equal to 75 percent of the APH average yield, multiply the current APH average yield by 0.8 for the 2004 APH approved yield.



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